

Python User Group Highlights: Introducing BrisPy

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BrisPy: The Python User Group Meetings

The Brisbane Python User Group is heading into its fourth month as a forum for local Pythonistas. The user group was started by Stephen Thorne from NetBox Blue in Milton and is kindly hosted by NetBox Blue themselves who provide pizza and beer for the gathering.



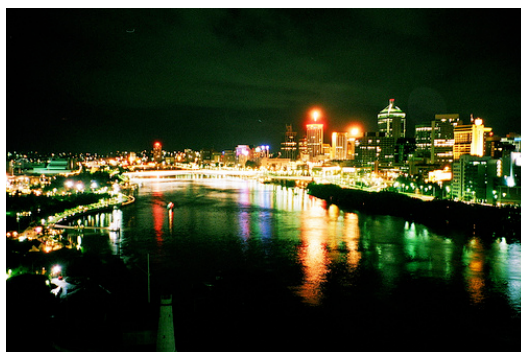
Brisbane at night by Chris Wallace

Milton is very close to the central business district of Brisbane. Brisbane is the capital of Queensland, Australia and is about two hours north of the most easterly point on the Australian east coast. Queensland is generally known as the warmer, sunnier state in Australia. Brisbane has a mixture of both industrial and business oriented industries, interspersed with a large tourism industry, particularly in its neighbouring city Gold Coast. There are three major universities with many campuses. Unfortunately, Java is still the tertiary institution language of choice, so most people at the meetings are seasoned programmers who either use Python at

work or wish they could. The IT industry in this area is not known for being particularly large or interesting, so many people know each other. This made the first BrisPy meeting an inevitable success.

The first meeting went well with about 15 people coming to see Stephen's talk about using scapy to monitor (sniff) network traffic. This also gave a few people from #python on irc.freenode.org a chance to meet face to face and have some good discussion. To see the slides for the presentation, head to: <http://oss.netboxblue.com/pug/scapy.html>

The second meeting was presented to by Clinton Roy who shared his knowledge about using ANTLR for Python. Initial comments about Java technology at a PUG were quickly dispelled as Clinton showed everyone some simple examples for generating parsers (and lexers etc) for simple grammars. All in all a good night that was very interesting, especially provoking when considering small DSL (domain specific languages). To see the slides for the ANTLR talk, head to: <http://azure.humbug.org.au/~croy/antlr.pdf>



Brisbane at night by Chris Wallace

At the moment the group is really keen to find any speakers to come and deliver material about a Python topic that they may know a lot about or hold dear. Some hot topics include web frameworks, ctypes, parallel python and twisted.

After each meeting discussions, pizza and beer take up the rest of the night. Often it is quite late when the meeting finishes. While discussion is normally around topics in Python, discussion also often revolves around what people are using Python for, some of these topics include:

Spam filtering

Natural Language Processing

Parsers

Web Frameworks

Testing Frameworks

Databases

For those interested in coming along to the BrisPy PUG, head to the Google Groups page at <http://groups.google.com/group/brispy> and register your interest. Alternatively head to the wiki for more information: <http://wiki.python.org/moin/BrisbanePUG>